

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method implemented in an Internet node for reducing Internet bandwidth used for VoIP relay, a first modem coupled to the Internet node and a second modem coupled to another Internet node the method comprising:
 - 5 upon detecting no data received from the other Internet node to transmit to the first modem, regenerating idle data to transmit to the first modem; and
 - upon detecting idle data received from the first modem to forward to the other Internet node, dropping the detected idle data.
- 10 2. The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the idle data is 'FF'.
3. The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the idle data is '7E'.
4. The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the Internet node is an Internet Gateway.
- 15 5. An apparatus for reducing Internet bandwidth used for transferring data between a first modem and a second modem over an IP network, the apparatus comprising:
 - means for detecting idle data received from the first modem to forward over the IP network;
 - 20 means for dropping the detected idle data; and
 - means for regenerating idle data to transmit to the second modem upon detecting no data received over the IP network to forward to the second modem.
6. The apparatus as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the idle data is 'FF'.

7. The apparatus as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the idle data is '7E'.
8. The apparatus as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the Internet node is an Internet gateway.
9. An Internet node comprising:
 - 5 an idle detect module which detects idle data received from a first modem coupled to the Internet node to be forwarded to a second modem and drops the detected idle data; and
 - 10 an idle generate module which regenerates idle data to transmit to the first modem upon detecting no data received from a second modem coupled to another Internet node to be forwarded to the first modem.
10. The Internet node as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the idle data is 'FF'.
11. The Internet node as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the idle data is '7E'.
12. The Internet node as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the Internet node is an Internet gateway.
- 15 13. A computer program product, for reducing Internet bandwidth used for transferring data between a first modem and a second modem over an IP network, the first modem coupled to a first Internet node, the second modem coupled to a second Internet node, the first Internet node and the second Internet node coupled to the IP network, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code thereon, including program code which:
 - 20 regenerates idle data to transmit to the first modem, upon detecting no data received from the second Internet node to forward to the first modem; and

detects idle data received from the first modem to forward to the second Internet node; and
drops the detected idle data.